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Agenda item 9

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Joint written statement submitted by Women's International Democratic Federation, World Confederation of Labour, World Federation of Democratic Youth (category I), American Association of Jurists, Disabled Peoples' International, Four Directions Council, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Indian Treaty Council, International Leaque for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Pax Christi International (category II), Centre Europe - Tiers Monde International, International Education Development, Inc., International Falcon Movement, International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples, World Christian Life Community, and World Organization against Torture a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[29 March 1996]

1. On 20 February 1996, Mrs. Zahra Rajabi and Mr. Abdol-Ali Moradi were murdered in Istanbul by terrorists dispatched from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mrs. Rajabi, a member of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, headed a delegation which was to examine the plight of Iranian refugees in Turkey, and Mr. Moradi, a sympathizer of the resistance, resided in Turkey. For many years, Mrs. Rajabi played an active role in helping Iranian refugees. She was thus called "the great martyr to the cause of Iranian refugees".

2. About 50 Iranian dissidents have been murdered in Turkey in recent years (the Associated Press - 21 February 1996). In early April 1993, following the arrest of 19 members of a fundamentalist terrorist group responsible for the murder of Mr. Ali Akbar Ghorbani, Turkey's then Interior Minister Mr. Esmat Sezgin, stated: "The terrorists confessed that they received military training in a camp near the city of Qom, 75 miles south of Tehran (AP-April 1993)."

3. The assassinations and kidnappings of Iranian dissidents, however, are not limited to Turkey and in many instances in the past, dissidents in Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Cyprus, Romania and other countries were assassinated and abducted.

4. Judge Roland Chatelain, the investigating magistrate in charge of investigating the assassination of Professor Kazem Rajavi, "the great advocate of human rights", revealed that 13 Iranians with "government service" passports were involved in his murder.

5. At present, four terrorists from the Iranian regime's Ministry of Intelligence are on trial in a Berlin court for organizing and carrying out the murder of four Kurds opposing the Tehran Government. In the course of their trial, the German intelligence and judicial organs disclosed that Ali Fallahian, the Iranian Minister of Intelligence, had ordered the killings.

6. On 2 February 1996, a group of Intelligence Ministry agents abducted an Iranian asylum-seeker and tortured him for 48 hours in a safe house near Bonn. He was able to escape when the kidnappers were transferring him to another safe house.

7. In a televised interview on 30 August 1992, Fallahina commented on dissident Iranian refugees: "They were forced to escape the country, but we continue our work and pursue them outside as well ... . We succeeded in delivering blows to many groups abroad." Legislation passed in the mullahs' Parliament legalized the extrajudicial execution of dissidents abroad. This legislation includes, among other punitive actions, "the punishment of those Iranians abroad who conspire against Islam" (the State-controlled daily Ressalat, 28 December 1994).

8. Obviously, the assassinations of Zahra Rajabi and Ali Moradi will not be the last of their kind. In a statement issued during the August 1995 session of the United Nations Sub-Commission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, many NGOs warned against the rise of the mullahs' State-sponsored terrorism. Despite international awareness, however, some reconciliatory policies have emboldened this regime in its atrocities.

9. While condemning the recent assassinations in Turkey, we call on the United Nations to take appropriate measures to save the lives of Iranian refugees and dissidents in exile.

10. We strongly urge Mr. Maurice Danby Copithorne, the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights, to undertake a serious investigation of the appalling phenomenon of State-sponsored terrorism against the Iranian dissidents.

11. We also call on the current session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to adopt a resolution on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, categorically condemning the mullahs' State-sponsored terrorism and recent killings in Turkey. The resolution should also refer the matter to the Security Council to adopt practical measures to punish the perpetrators of this crime and to prevent similar incidents in future.